



GATOR GAZETTE

FLORIDA WING, CIVIL AIR PATROL

Stuart Composite Cadet Receives West Point Appointment

Congratulations to C/1st Lt Catherine Jewel Lee of the Stuart Composite Squadron and her family for her nomination and appointment as a Cadet to the United States Military Academy at West Point.

C/1st Lt Lee reported for duty on June 24th and is the first cadet from the Stuart Composite Squadron to receive an appointment to a U.S. Military Academy.

Catherine Jewel Lee joined Civil Air Patrol in October of 2016. She progressed from a shy but resolute cadet to a position of knowledge, experience, and leadership. She advanced rapidly through the Cadet Programs achievement levels and attended three summer encampments which included two as a member of the Cadet Cadre. She held virtually all cadet duty positions within the squadron including Cadet Commander and Group Cadet Advisory Council Representative. Her CAP training and experience were cited by C/1st Lt Lee as one of the factors leading to her decision to apply for this appointment.

Her positive attitude and absolute commitment to her education - she maintained a GPA between 3.95 and 4.0 - were critical to her success. She wanted to let other cadets know that all things are possible with dedication, the setting of personal goals and objectives, the maintenance of a balance in your personal life, commitment to a set of family values, and core values as provided in the CAP.

Cadet Catherine J. Lee, USMA West Point, congratulations and God Speed on your journey.



C/1st Lt Lee is pictured with nominator U.S. Representative Lois Frankel, Florida Congressional District 21 and Cadet Lee's mother Mary Kay Lee at her appointment announcement.

SAVE THE DATES

August 5: Ultimate Cadet Challenge – Deputy Commander and Cadet Commander Application Deadline. Apply via email to Capt. Barbara Rich at:
[UCC Application Email](#)

August 15: Winter Encampment-Commander Application Deadline. Apply via email to Maj. Ann Marie Kozloski at:
[Encampment Commander Application Email](#)

August 25-27: CAP National Conference, Lexington, KY- Registration Open. Information and Registration Link: [CAP National Conference](#)

August 26-28: FLWG Cadet Color Guard Academy, Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla. Registration open through August 13th.
[Color Guard Academy Info and Registration](#)

September 10-11, 17: Education and Training, Level III-All Modules- hosted by Group 7, Florida Memorial University, Miami Gardens. Registration Open. Pre-registration Required. Instructors still needed.
[Level III Registration, Miami](#)

September 10 and 17: Education and Training Level III-Moderated Modules Only – hosted by Group 2, Neighborhood Church, Ocala. Registration Open. Pre-registration Required. Instructors still needed.
[Registration Level III, Ocala](#)

October 21-23: Ultimate Cadet Challenge, Camp Flaming Arrow, Lake Wales. Registration not open.

November 18-20: Florida Leadership Academy (FLA), TBA

December 3: Sunshine State Drone Expo, Azalea Middle School, St. Petersburg, Florida. Free admission.
[Sunshine State Drone Expo Info](#)

December 17: Wreaths Across America Day, various locations

December 26 – Jan 2: Winter FLESA, Avon Park.

December 27 – Jan 3: TENTATIVE DATES, FLWG Winter Encampment, Camp Blanding.



FLORIDA WING HURCON PLAN

The revised Florida Wing HURCON Plan is now available on the FLWG website. Please become familiar with the plan and the SITREP procedure. It is recommended that you review the plan with members of your unit, discuss local plans for securing assets and maintaining communication with unit members if your area is affected by a storm.

Important Links:

[FLWG HURCON PLAN](#)

[FLWG HURCON STATUS](#)

[Unit SITREP](#)



**Ultimate Cadet Challenge Announcement-
Deputy Commander and
Cadet Commander
Applications Accepted through August 5th**

FLWG Cadet Programs is accepting applications for the Ultimate Cadet Challenge. The activity will be held at Camp Flaming Arrow near Lake Wales. Please submit your resume with a cover letter to Capt. Barbara Rich at

Barbara.rich@flwg.cap.gov



**Winter Encampment Announcement –
Commander Applications Accepted through August 15th**

FLWG Cadet Programs is accepting applications for the 2022/23 winter encampment commander. The tentative dates are Dec 27 – Jan 3 at Camp Blanding. The ideal candidate should have experience with FLWG encampments and hold at least a senior rating in the cadet programs specialty track. Applications should include a cover letter and CAP resume (a professional resume may be sent additionally) to annmarie.kozloski@flwg.cap.gov

From CAP.News

Florida Team for Southeast Region Captures 3rd Straight National Competition

The achievement was three years in the making, but the Knights of the Florida Wing's Wesley Chapel Cadet Squadron are National Cadet Competition champions again.

Following two years of postponement because of the COVID-19 pandemic, Civil Air Patrol resumed its National Cadet Competition from July 14-19 in Dayton, Ohio.

The Florida Wing team, representing the Southeast Region, came in first place, hoisting the U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff Sweepstakes Award Trophy for the third consecutive time, having previously finished first in 2018 and 2019.



Read the full article by clicking [here](#).

Wesley Chapel Knights:

C/Capt Granados - Team Lead

C/Col Mollison

C/2Lt Weiss

C/2Lt Santos

C/CMSgt Lockert

C/MSgt Greco

Team Senior Member Coaches and Mentors:

Capt. Cesar Alayon

1Lt. Sandra Weiss

Capt. Andrew Alayon

SM Elicia Smith

COLOR GUARD ACADEMY

Florida Elks Youth Camp, Umatilla Florida

August 26-28, 2022

Academy Director: Lt Col Danielle DeAngelo



We have great news!

Due to the overwhelming response, we are getting for the Florida Wing Color Guard Academy, we are extending the deadline to register to NLT 11:59 pm on Sunday, August 14, 2022.

Be sure to hurry up and register as soon as possible, as spots will fill up fast!

Remember, you may submit as a squadron (1 senior and 4-6 cadets) or as an individual (or additional squadron members if over six cadets).

The cost is \$50 per person and will be held August 26-28, 2022, at Elks Youth Camp. The fee covers all course expenses, materials, food, and lodging.

[Color Guard Academy Info and Registration Link](#)

The Florida Wing Color Guard Academy has decided to take a new angle on training. This year we are opening up registration to individual attendees in addition to squadrons who currently have a team. This allows everyone the opportunity to learn and bring back those skills to teach other squadron members.

We hope that this promotes color guard in squadrons who are just beginning to find an interest in the subject, and for those looking to compete in the future with the tools they need to be successful! This year's course will be taught by individuals with vast knowledge of USAF and CAP regulations and manuals.

The **NEW** Color Guard Academy is designed to **NOT ONLY** assist squadrons training color guard teams for Florida Wing Color Guard Competition, but also to provide squadrons with the opportunity to present the colors at different activities for fund raising or community involvement purposes.

Senior members will receive additional personalized trainings on how to mentor cadets in the color guard teams at squadron public presentations, as well as, preparing them for national level cadet competition. Color guard teams compete to represent the Florida Wing at the Southeast Region (SER) Cadet Competition. The event consists of many areas of competition, from military drill performances, to athletic challenges to academic evaluation.

Senior Member Education and Training Opportunities – Level III

Hosted by Group 7, Miami Gardens

VOLU Level III - Full Modules

Course Director: Lt. Col. Trevor Stewart

Dates: Saturday, Sept. 10th; Sunday Sept. 11th; and Saturday, Sept. 17th, 2022

Location: Florida Memorial University, Lehman Aviation Building, 15800 NW 42nd Ave., Miami Gardens, FL 33054

Course Fee: None

This VOLU Level III Course is for CAP senior members who have completed Level II, are active in the program, and hold duty assignments at the unit or group level. The Course Director reserves the right to consider requested exceptions.

The uniform of the day will be the CAP polo shirt and grey slacks combination.

Be prepared to bring a laptop and lunch for the three days.

Pre-registration required. No walk-ins and no substitutions will be accepted.

The Course Director may seek your unit commander's approval for your attendance.

[VOLU Level III, Miami Gardens Student Registration](#)

Course instructors are still needed to assist for all three days.

We will welcome other VOLU-approved Level III instructors who may wish to participate.

Instructors only need to notify us to be included in the class schedule.

Please send an email to Lt. Col. Stewart at trevor.stewart@flwgcap.us to participate as an instructor.

Hosted by Group 2, Ocala

VOLU Level III – Moderated Modules

Course Director: Capt. Carolyn Spangler

Dates: Saturday, Sept. 17th and Saturday, Sept. 24th, 2022

Times: 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Location: Neighborhood Church, 6474 NE 7th St. Ocala FL 34470

Registration Deadline: Sept. 13, 2022. Class is limited to 25 students.

Attendees must have completed Learning Phase Level II and hold a grade of 1st Lt. or higher.

Attendees also need to have the online modules completed in order to complete Level III requirements.

Donuts and Coffee will be available. (Donations towards coffee/donuts appreciated. \$5 recommended donation.)

Lunch will be on your own. There are several fast-food restaurants within a 5-mile radius

Pre-registration required. No walk-ins will be accepted.

[VOLU Level III, Ocala Student Registration](#)

Course instructors are still needed to assist for all three days.

We will welcome other VOLU-approved Level III instructors who may wish to participate.

Instructors only need to notify us to be included in the class schedule.

Please send an email to Capt. Spangler at Carolyn.spangler@flwgcap.us to participate as an instructor.

Summer Florida Wing Emergency Services Academy



The Florida Wing Emergency Services Academy for the summer of 2022 was held at Camp Blanding National Guard Joint Training Center from July 7th to July 16th. Training at FLESA was led by Capt. Chris Krier and 1st Lt. Arrash Shekari with the assistance of Deputy Director Capt. Jay Rosenfeld. In all, the academy was attended by ten senior staff members, 11 Basic Ground team students, and two Mission Staff Assistant (MSA) Students.

During part of the First Aid training, Florida Wing Commander Col. Luis Negron volunteered his assistance by playing the role of an unresponsive victim who needed to be carried by the trainees using a backboard. Capt. Krier demonstrated the proper methods of how to safely move an unresponsive person to the backboard.



Ground Team trainees completed three days of scenario-based training after receiving their initial training in various skills using a variety of equipment. Both day and night UDF, missing person and overdue aircraft searches were conducted. FLESA's overnight training segment where students and instructors camp in a wooded area on base was called off due to severe weather conditions and personnel was recalled to the barracks to safe shelter.

Eleven Ground Team trainees graduated with their Urban Direction Finding (UDF) and Ground Team Member 3 (GMT3) Operation Qualifications completed. Both to the MSA students completed the requirements for their qualification as well. During FLESA, Capt. Krier certified 14 members in First Aid, in which ten were initial qualifications and four renewals.



By: Maj. Sybrian Castleman

Photos: Lt. Melanie Lee

Civil Air Patrol Cadet Receives Highest Honor

By Capt. Leo Bowersox, Commander
Pensacola Cadet Squadron

PENSACOLA, FL – Civil Air Patrol Cadet Caleb J. Shafer recently received the Spaatz Award, the organization's highest award for achievement in the cadet program. The Spaatz Award has been received by only 2400 cadets in the history of the cadet program. A ceremony with full honors was hosted by Pensacola Cadet Squadron – Cadet Shafer's home unit. Florida Wing Group 1 Commander Major Nathan Hoffman, CAP offered congratulatory remarks. The award was formally presented by Major General Clay McCutchan, USAF Ret. Cadet Shafer was pinned with his new rank of Cadet Colonel by his mother, Julie M. Shafer, Cadet Connor Green of UWF AFROTC, and General McCutchan. Also in attendance was Captain Austin Schultz, CAP (Spaatz #2172) who presented Cadet Shafer with a special challenge coin on behalf of all previous Spaatz award recipients. Cadet Shafer is a junior at the University of West Florida and a member of AFROTC. Having recently completed his AFROTC field training at Maxwell AFB, he plans to pursue a career in aviation in the United States military.



From the Boca Raton Tribune



Local Student Represents Florida at American Legion Auxiliary Girls Nation

Boca Raton, FL – Charlotte Joseph, Boca Raton, is one of 100 young women selected to attend the 75th American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Girls Nation session July 23-30 in Washington, D.C.

Joseph, a rising senior at Boca Raton Community High School, was active in many ways during her week at ALA Florida Girls State. She also participates in many activities in her school and community. She is a member of the National Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, and co-founder and vice president of Boca High Boat Club. Joseph is also a Civil Air Patrol flight sergeant and head student athletic trainer at Boca Raton.

Read the full story at: [Charlotte Joseph - Boca Raton Tribune article](#)

167th Cadet to get PPC under Cadet Wings!

Cadet Oliver Hewitt-Qualls of Florida Wing became the 167th cadet to earn his Private Pilot Certificate through Cadet Wings on July 29, 2022, thanks to funding from the United States Air Force. He is one of six cadets this year attending CAP's In-Residence Advanced Flight Training Academy in Columbus, Indiana. Photo is of Cadet Hewitt-Qualls with his examiner, Mr. Steven Goetz.

Congratulations Cadet Hewitt-Qualls!



Congratulations to
C/SMSGt Luke Henderson
of TiCo Composite Squadron
for his achievement as the 642nd cadet
inducted into the Florida Wing Cadet
Honor Society.
He is also being awarded Member of
Distinction for his exceptional testing
scores.

Cadet Milestone Awards for July

Wright Brothers

Patrick McDonald, Naples Composite Sq.
Jennifer Stainaker, Charlotte County Composite Sq.
Emma Dewey, North Tampa-Lutz Cadet Sq.
Bryce Byrnes, Central Florida Composite Sq.
Dexter Parrish, Patrick Composite Sq.
Logan Wright, Patrick Composite Sq.

Mitchell

Aelia Trainer, Naples Composite
Dylan McMahon, Treasure Coast Composite Sq.
Daniel Jimenez, Homestead ARB Cadet Sq.
Nicholas Camperos, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Armando Tartaglia, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Andrew Merrill, Jacksonville Composite Sq.
Chase Lunsford, Eglin Composite Sq.
Matthew Spence Jr., Clearwater Composite Sq.

Eaker

Cameron Calloway, Seminole Composite Sq.

Spaatz

Reef Ide, Central Florida Composite Sq.

Congratulations to all!

Ormond Beach Interim Fire Chief David King Retires After 23 Years of Service

By: SM Steven Broadway

Public affairs officer, Ormond Beach Composite Squadron Civil Air Patrol

ORMOND BEACH-Some people have it in their blood to serve. For the last 49 Years David King has served his community, his state, and his country, with Excellence in Service. Starting as a soldier in the U.S. Army in 1973, as a Deputy Sheriff, Fireman, and Civil Air Patrol Senior member, he has always given to others.

Ormond Beach Fire Chief David King retired at the end of July 2022 after being with the Ormond Beach Fire Dept. for 23 years. Many will be saddened to say good-bye, as he hangs up his fire service uniform, but for those in Civil Air Patrol – especially those in the Ormond Beach Composite Squadron and Florida Wing-members look forward to the additional time Civil Air Patrol Captain David King will be sharing as a volunteer serving in various duty positions including Communications Officer, Disaster Preparedness Officer, and Assistant Health Services Officer. King is looking forward to dedicating more time with Civil Air Patrol and advancing his piloting skills.



Wreaths Across America Radio

Each month, Florida Wing has a featured interview on Wreaths Across America Radio.

If your squadron participates in WAA and you are interested in having your squadron featured, we have interview openings August through December – and some months, we are able to get additional interview slots! Please e-mail Maj. Castleman at Sybrian.castleman@flwg.cap.gov to request an interview slot.

The featured FLWG squadron for July was the Treasure Coast Composite Squadron Commander, Capt. Thomas McMahon.

Listen here: [Capt. McMahon WAA Radio July 2022](#)

Wreaths Across America – Wreath Sponsorship Fundraiser

National WAA Day for 2022 is Saturday, December 17th at National Cemeteries Across the Country

Sign your squadron up as a sponsorship group (fundraising) for 2022 if your unit hasn't done so already! This is a fundraiser approved by NHQ, so no additional approvals are required.

[WAA Fundraising Information and Registration Link](#)

Senior Member Education and Training Awards July

Level 1

Terry Dale, Charlotte County Composite Sq.
Fred Anderson, Merritt Island Senior Sq.
Kenneth Novak, Merritt Island Senior Sq.
Kay Vialpando-Rossi, Patrick Composite Sq.
Lance Hernandez, Hernando Composite Sq.
Bryan White, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.
Christopher Willingham, Hillsborough One Senior Sq.
Alexis De La Fuente, Doral Cadet Sq.
Isabel Martin, Doral Cadet Sq.
Andrew Ballinger, Fernandina Senior Sq.
Sandy Enriquez, Ft. Lauderdale Composite Sq.
Jennifer Schumacher, Tamiami Composite Sq.
Eduardo Gomez, Boca Raton Composite Sq.
Akwete Adjei, Marco Island Senior Sq.
Jose Diaz-Bujan, Marco Island Senior Sq.
Dave Sanchez, Jacksonville Composite Sq.
Joseph Dorando, Emerald Coast Senior Sq.
Charles Good, Emerald Coast Senior Sq.
Aisha Morris, Tallahassee Composite Sq.
Elicia Smith, Wesley Chapel Cadet Sq.
James Butler, 463rd Composite Sq.
Edmund Hukill, 463rd Composite Sq.
Scott Kirkwood, Lakeland Composite Sq.
John McCullough, Lakeland Composite Sq.

Level 2

Kristopher Klein, Pinellas Senior Sq.
Beth Crane, Homestead ARB Cadet Sq.
Brian Crane, Homestead ARB Cadet Sq.
Walter Andino, Doral Cadet Sq.
Richard Clemens, Zephyr Airport Cadet Sq.
Willis Reese, Azalea Middle School Sq.

Level 3

Arrash Shekari, Florida Wing HQ
Thomas Britton, Charlotte County Composite Sq.

Level 4

Kevin Rausch, Group 2 HQ



Sunshine State Drone Expo

The 2022 Sunshine State Drone Expo is hosted by the Civil Air Patrol Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron (SER-FL-829) in partnership with the Azalea Middle School Drone Academy.

Date: Saturday, December 3, 2022 starting at 9:00 a.m.

Location: Azalea Middle School Football Field - 7855 22nd Ave. N. St. Petersburg Florida.

Admission: Free

[INFO Sunshine State Drone Expo](#)

Over the last few weeks, Florida Wing has lost four valued and dedicated members. Their many years of volunteer service to Civil Air Patrol in their various capacities at squadron, group, wing, and region levels were essential to the success our organization's programs and missions.

They will be greatly missed.

Please keep their families and friends in your thoughts as we remember these members.

Lt. Col. Raymond Rosenberg
Marco Island Senior Squadron



Ray served in several duty positions at the wing, group, and squadron levels. His service as an assistant Inspector General for the wing, as a group commander, a mentor for Volunteer University, and the many other roles Ray filled in our organization were essential for the smooth operations of our wing. All who knew him often said Ray was a true officer and gentleman and an outstanding mentor to our members.

1st Lt. Dan Gregory
Jacksonville Composite Squadron



Dan served as the Deputy Commander for Cadets at the Jacksonville Composite Squadron and as a Civil Air Patrol Scanner and Airborne Photographer as a member of our mission aircrews. He served Civil Air Patrol in various capacities over the years. His contributions to the organization will be as greatly missed as his friendly demeanor.

Lt. Col. Eric Haertel
Headquarters Florida Wing



Eric's dedication to serving his country through his Army career and as a volunteer in Civil Air Patrol was one of the outstanding characteristics of who he was. He filled many essential duty positions across the organization at local squadrons, groups, wings, and regions over his years of service in Civil Air Patrol. Eric always made himself available when needed to offer guidance and assistance.

Capt. Timothy Casey
089th MacDill Cadet Squadron



Tim was a vital member of our MacDill Cadet Squadron, serving as an Aerospace Officer and as the CyberPatriot team coach. He was always ready to pitch in for squadron activities and events. Tim's dedication to the squadron was evident by his passion for the program.

Florida Wing 2022 Cyber Academy

By Capt. Adelino Marcal, FLWG Asst. PAO
2022 Cyber Academy Director

The Florida Wing Cyber Academy was held at the St. Lucie County Operations Center and the Indian River State College (IRSC) in Ft. Pierce from July 24th to 29th. The Activity Director was Capt. Adelino Marcal with cadets C/CMSgt Elena Fuentes and C/CMSgt Anderson Kochik as co-cadet commanders. Cadet Lt. Col. Maximus Kousiry was the Cadet Executive Officer for the academy.



This year's academy was attended by 15 student cadets with six cadet cadre members and two cadet support staff members. Cadet and senior member cadre members Capt. Adelino Marcal, Capt. Christian Dominguez, C/CMSgt. Fuentes and C/CMSgt. Kochick instructed first time student cadets.

Each year, the Cyber Academy focuses on providing cadets with a better knowledge of Windows and Linux operating systems, NETCAD, networking, and cyber security defense techniques through classroom instruction and hands-on practical exercises.

During the academy, cadets watched a demonstration by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Department Canine Team, toured the Indian River State College Public Safety Institute which includes the law enforcement training grounds, and attended a demonstration by the St. Lucie County Sheriff's Aviation Helicopter Unit. Additional tours included the Navy Seal Museum, the St. Lucie County Emergency Operation Center, and the IRSC Photonics and Robotics Labs. Cadets also explored various career opportunities and learn



about future demands anticipated in the cyber fields.

VIP visitors who assisted were 1st Lt. Daniel Linares and Capt. Craig Ortman, FLWG Cyber Programs Officer. 1st Lt. Tiffany Schaefer, Deputy Director for this year's academy also attended and supported the activity.

The Cadet of the Academy was C/2nd Lt. Nicholas Camperos.

Special thanks Indian River State College, St. Lucie County Board of County Commissioners/ Emergency Operations Center, St. Lucie County Sheriff's Office, Port Saint Lucie Police Dept. Navy Seal Museum for hosting this academy.



National Commander Makes Memorable First Visit to NASA During The 2022 National Aerospace Education Officers School

By 2nd Lt. Willis Reese III, CAP

Commander and Aerospace Education Officer,
Azalea Middle School Cadet Squadron, Florida Wing

Cocoa Beach, FLA. - National Commander, Maj. Gen. Ed Phelka, and National Vice Commander, Brig. Gen. Regena Aye were both on hand to take part in the National Aerospace Education Officer's School held in Cocoa Beach Florida during the week of June 27, 2022. This annual program has run for more than 20 years, but due to COVID restrictions the event had been shelved during 2020 and 2021. This year the class was brought back for its nineteenth iteration as a five day long, face to face class complete with two days of field trips to Cape Canaveral, and NASA.

Participants were treated to two full days of information packed tours with United States space flight subject matter expert Lt. Col. Gary Dahlke. Two tour busses shuttled the class around to different areas of historical significance such as Hanger (S) where spacecraft had been built to take the earliest American astronauts into space and Launch Complex 26 where satellites and monkeys were launched to make way for later manned flights. The tours culminated with the opportunity for the class to witness an actual rocket launch from the main visitor's complex at the Kennedy Space Center; just over six and a half miles away from the launch pad hosting the launch of the latest SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.



The entire tour was an especially momentous occasion for Gen. Phelka since it was his very first time having the pleasure of visiting the Kennedy Space Center. Gen. Phelka stated that for him, having the opportunity to see the Space Shuttle Atlantis up close was the most significant part of this NASA excursion. He reminisced back to his youth around the time that he entered the Civil Air Patrol as a Cadet in 1987, and fondly remembered watching the space shuttle launches on television. Gen. Phelka recalled how those launches inspired him as a young man and gave him a great interest in aerospace technology. For him, standing within mere feet of an actual Space Shuttle and making the historical connections back to the Reagan Era, Space Program was the most compelling thrill of the day.



Throughout the week, class participants enjoyed speeches and presentations from the National Director of Aerospace Education Dr. Jeff Montgomery, his staff, and other guest speakers. Program Managers Shayla Broadway, Debbie Dahl, Sue Mercer, and Ginny Smith, along with Youth Development Program Coordinator Susan Mallett all modeled excellent educational best practices while immersing the class in hands on activities with STEM kits. Every participant left on Friday with lessons they could take back to their squadrons, a completed Aerospace Education Notebook, networking connections, and information on a wide range of topics from ACE, AEM's, and AEX, to rocketry and TOP Flights. With plenty of valuable door prizes and giveaways the National team made sure that everyone left with something in their hands as well.

Pictured right: CAP National Commander Brig. Gen. Phelka takes a selfie with Dr. Jeff Montgomery, CAP National Director of Aerospace Education.



Florida Wing 2022 Summer Encampment

By Maj. Sybrian Castleman

The Florida Wing (FLWG) Summer Encampment was held from July 7th-16th at Camp Blanding National Guard Joint Training Center near Starke, Florida. This winter's encampment was led by Lt. Col. Thomas Trammell, Encampment Commander and C/Lt. Col. Anya Kratz as the Cadet Encampment Commander.

There were 158 first-time student cadets, 10 returning cadets as part of the Advanced Training Squadron, 66 cadet staff members and 32 adult staff members.

Cadets attending their first encampment go through a standard encampment curriculum which is set by Civil Air Patrol National Headquarters Cadet Programs which includes drill, uniform inspections, Civil Air Patrol knowledge, fitness exercises, and customs and courtesies. Advanced Training Squadron cadets are taught a higher level of leadership lessons, learn and practice many skill sets used in emergency services, and learn the importance of teamwork.



All cadets participated in special activities including daily sports; the Virtual Weapons Simulator Orientation – known as “Battle Sims”; the Leadership Reaction Course (LRC) -which is a team obstacle course; the Counter Drug Task Force Obstacle Courses with the A-Frame obstacle; the Air Assault Obstacle Course with a variety of physical challenges; the rappelling tower; and visiting the on-base fire station and the static displays outside of the Camp Blanding Museum.



This encampment also included a special activity: U.S. Air Force Recruiting brought their “Own the Sky” experience to Camp Blanding where CAP members were able to “fly” one of six simulators from the F35 to a KC135 refueling mission.



Florida Wing Air Operations were able to provide Cadet Orientation Flights throughout the week. Flight operations were conducted out of the nearby Keystone Heights Airport by eight pilots from across Florida Wing flying a total of 64 flight hours with cadets and completing 70 first-time cadet orientation flights. At past encampments, flights were only offered for one day and typically completed fewer than 20 flights.



The Advanced Training Squadron (ATS) completed Basic First Aid Training and had the opportunity to participate in the NRA Marksmanship program which promotes gun safety and gives cadets an opportunity to develop their shooting skill. Three cadets received proficiency badges: C/TSgt. Garrett Hall and C/SSgt. Noah Senra met the qualifications for the Pro-Marksman certificate and C/SMSGt. Mark Majeska completed a higher level of proficiency earning him the Markman certificate. Another special activity at this encampment for ATS was visit to Kennedy Space Center where they spent the day touring the facility with FLWG Cadet Programs Director Maj. Ann Marie Kozloski and FLWG Commander Col. Luis Negron.



At the banquet, awards were presented for outstanding units and cadets for the week.

Honor Student - Cadet Lucas Hutchison, Charlie Flight; Cadet NCO- C/SSgt. Matthew Betancourt, Delta Flight; Cadet Officer - C/2nd Lt. William Berlanga, Foxtrot Flight; Support Staff- C/1st Lt. Steven Zhang, Curriculum and Public Affairs; Training Officer - Capt. Natascha Harrison; Senior Members of the Encampment - Capt. Kevin Rausch, Safety Officer and 1st Lt. Heather Parth, Health Services Officer; Academic Flight - Charlie; Drill Flight- Lima; Warrior Flight -Golf; Honor Flight -Charlie; Honor Squadron -Squadron 4.

Achievement Awards were presented to: Capt. Cynthia Crawford, Capt. Amon Russell, Capt. Natascha Harrison, Capt. Kevin Rausch, 1st Lt. Ronald Rowe, SM Choice Miller, SM Lois Miller, C/Lt. Col. Anya Kratz, C/Lt. Col. Blake Adams, and C/Lt. Col. Ignacio Ocando.

Wing Commander Commendations were presented to: Lt. Col. Thomas Trammell, Maj. Logan Gallo, Maj. Ann Marie Kozloski, Capt. Christian Dominguez, Capt. Adelino Marcal, Lt. Col. Thomas Simm, Capt. John "Jack" Duich and 2nd Lt. David Bynum.

The Encampment Pass-in-Review and graduation ceremony was well attended by attending cadets' family members and friends. The ceremony was broadcast via Facebook Live as the event was taking place on Saturday.